

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action dated June 22, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 22, 23 and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failure to comply with the written description requirement. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Bland et al.* (U.S. 2,895,747). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 22, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Salmen* (GB 824717).

With the filing of this Request for Continued Examination, the Applicants have cancelled the pending claims 22, 23, and 26-31 and replaced them with new claims 32-40.

The new claims are patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. For example, neither *Bland et al* nor GB 824717 discloses, teaches or makes obvious a method of joining tubulars that results in a junction tubular welded to a first and second tubular in a manner whereby an uninterrupted surface finish remains in the interior surface of the junction, as specified in new claims 32 and 39. Additionally, neither prior art reference teaches the step of welding a treated joining tubular placed between a first and second tubular wherein the welding is not applied to the interior surface of the joining piece, as claimed in independent claim 37. Because the independent claims are patentable over the cited art, the dependent claims are also patentable.

Additionally, the new claims are fully supported by the specification as filed. For example, "tubulars" are disclosed at least at paragraphs 35, 37 and 38 of the published application, No. US 2005/0173495 A1 and tubulars are also clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the application.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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